MOSS SIDE NEWS

DEMOLITION

issue no 1. 6d

THE MOSS SIDE NEWS is established in association with the Moss Side People's Association. This paper is non-profitmaking.

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This is Moss Side's own paper, written by and for local people. Articles are welcomed from all Moss Sider's and any other interested people - please submit them to the editor.

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THE MOSS SIDE
PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION.

Chairman: Mrs.K.Labinjoh,
22, Monton St.

Secretary: Mrs.H.Leach,
53, Sewerby St.

Treasurer: Berry Edwards,
78, Platt St.

This Association was formed in June '68. Its aim is to involve Moss Side people in building a better Moss Side and fighting for the rights of all its people.

Mo.S.P.A.'s Working Groups are open to anyone to join, and include:

*Street Cleaning: Derrick Rogers, 82, Princes Rd.

*Housing Action: Rick Sumner, 23, Sewerby St.

*Old People: Martin Wyatt & Derrick Rogers.

Come to the Housing Action Group's meetings. If you are interested, contact the chairman of the H.A.G. -
Rick Sumner, 23, Sewerby St.

The Moss Side News is published by N.Zienau, 73, Sewerby

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EDITORIAL

In this first issue of the Moss Side News there are two big articles about the redevelopment and rehousing of the area. We feel that it is extremely important to publish as many facts on this topic as we can discover.

However this is not the only purpose of the paper. We will print news and opinion about any topic which we feel would be of interest to people living around here.

We are going to publish the paper every fortnight and to do this we need as much supprt as possible. If you want the paper to continue PLEASE read it, write for it, advertise in it and BUY it.

Education

There is an article on page 12 about the need for a par--ent's association. Last Thur--sday a public meeting was held at which one was formed.

If you are worried about the way your children are being educated, or if you are interested in any other way, why not contact them? The address of the chairman is 78, Platt St.

Finally I would like to thank everyone who helped to produce this paper by giving up their days and nights!

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DEMOLITION NEWS!

Most of Moss Side will be down in the next 4 years according to Town Hall officials.

"ABOUT HALF THE PEOPLE WILL GO TO OVER-SPILL ESTATES, THE REST WILL BE REHOUSED WITHIN THE CITY BUT NOT IN MOSS SIDE"

Manchester's Chief Planning Officer, Mr.Millar, told members of the Housing Action Group at a meeting last week.

The facts on re-development.

I. All of MossSide west of Princess Rd. will be cleared, also the Carter St.(Greenheys) & Monton St. Clearance Areas plus an area near Maine Rd. Football Ground. Houses not yet declared should be later this year. Clearance can begin within 2½ years of an area being declared.

2. There is no intention at present to demolish houses in the rest of Moss Side. Indeed, the planners are thinking of proposing to the Council that large grants should be offered to owners to improve their houses.

3. Moss Side people will probably be offered houses in Sale, Knutsford, Wilmslow & Bury, together with a mixture of new houses and re-lets inside the city boundary. Mr.Millar made it clear that unless council policy is changed, few, if any, Moss Side people will be rehoused in their own district.

4. There are no comprehensive plans for the New Moss Side in existence yet. If present council policy is followed about half the new residents will be in 6 story maisonettes, the others in terrace houses. The Maisonettes will be built around the District Centre. Mr.Millar stated categorically that large families would no-longer be put into high rise flats.

Five months pressure.

IT TOOK FIVE MONTHS OF CONSTANT EFFORT BY LOCAL PEOPLE TO DRAG THIS INFORMATION OUT OF THE TOWN HALL.

The pressure was first applied in early February, at a public meeting where local councillors were asked to give the facts on rehousing. The meeting was dissatisfied with their answers and the way they ignored the demands on a petition that was infront of them.

This petition was taken round by the Housing Action Group of the Moss Side Peoples Association. The H.A.G. had been formed and the petition organised at the demand of a public meeting of 500 local people held in late January. The petition demanded two-way consultations and 'rolling' re-development, so that Moss Sider's might stay in the district if they wanted to. AT ITS COMPLETION 3,000 local LOCAL PEOPLE HAD SIGNED THE PETITION.

With this support H.A.G. sent a letter, including IO questions on re-development, to various Town Hall officials and chairmen of committees.

THE TOWN CLERK EVENTUALLY REPLIED WITH 'ANSWERS' TO THE QUESTIONS. AN UNPRECIDENTED MEETING BETWEEN I8 OFFICIALS AND 9 MEMBERS OF THE MOSS SIDE PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION FOLLOWED.

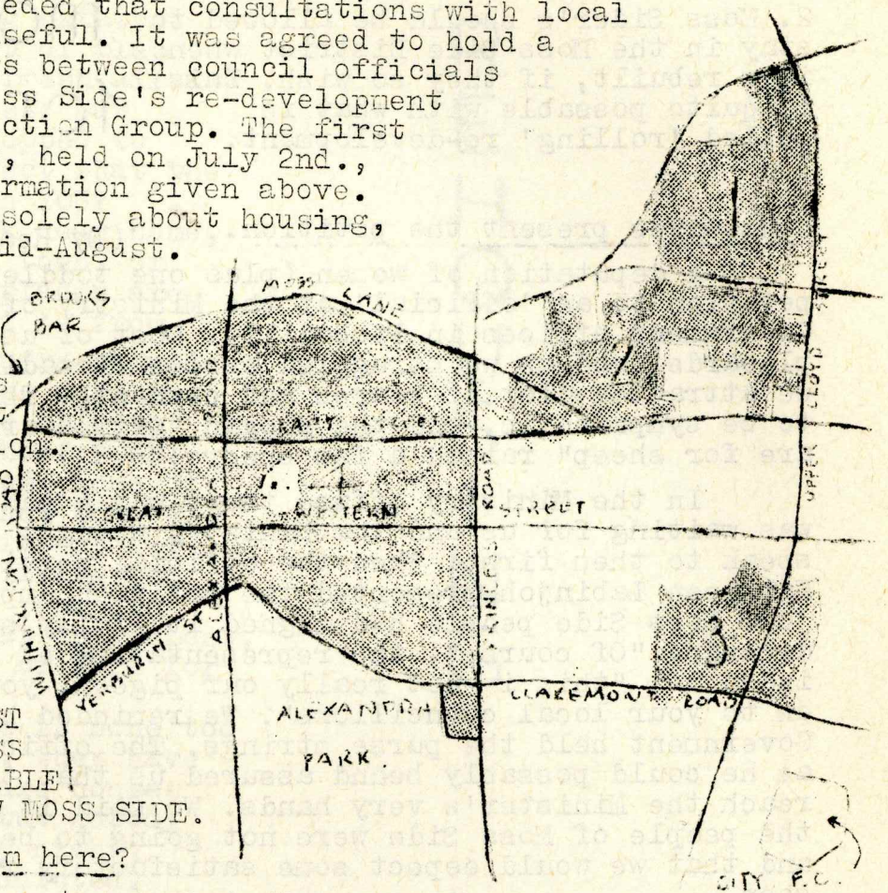
At this meeting, on May 20th., Mr.Cook, Assistant Town Clerk, conceded that consultations with local people might be useful. It was agreed to hold a series of meetings between council officials concerned with Moss Side's re-development and the Housing Action Group. The first of these meetings, held on July 2nd., produced the information given above. Another, to talk solely about housing, is arranged for mid-August.

What has this effort achieved?

*The Town Hall has conceded the right to some consultation.

*More information has been given than individuals have been able to get on their own.

*The certain knowledge that COUNCIL POLICY MUST BE CHANGED, IF MOSS SIDERS ARE TO BE ABLE TO LIVE IN THE NEW MOSS SIDE.



Where do we go from here?

Moss Side people must say what they want for their own future NOW, if it is to have any effect on the Town Hall. The limited action taken by the Housing Action Group has made them listern; -------- MORE PEOPLE, MORE ACTION, MORE PRESSURE CAN MAKE THE TOWN HALL DELIVER THE GOODS MOSS SIDERS ASK FOR.

The map above shows the areas due for demolition.

1) Carter Street Area.
2) Monton Street Area.
3) Upper Lloyd Street Area (not yet declared).
4) Moss Side West (Sewerby St. Area & Hulton St. Area have already been declared.)

The petition that 3000 people in Moss Side signed, demanded:

I. Moss Sider's should be consulted about their future and the New Moss Side they would like to see.

2. Moss Sider's should be allowed to stay in the Moss Side District when it's rebuilt, if they so wish. This is quite possable with what is called 'rolling' re-development.

Cities are for people moors are for sheep

Housewives present the petition. (By Heather Leach)

A deputation of women (plus one toddler) presented the petition to an 'official' at the Ministry of Housing & Local Government offices in Piccadilly. Most of us were carrying placards, and as we struggled across Piccadilly into the Plaza we attracted alot of stares and comments. The onlookers seemed to be sympathetic, and the slogan "Cities are for people, moors are for sheep" raised a few cheers!

In the Ministry office there was a panic on. The press was waiting for us and the Ministry thought we had better speak to them first. When the official nerviously re-entered, Kathleen Labinjoh presented the petition emphasising that 3000 Moss Side people had signed it, fully supporting all the demands. "Of course", the representative of the Ministry reminded us, "this is not really our pigeon, you'll have to get on to your local councillors". We reminded him that the Government held the purse strings. The official was charming as he could possably beand assured us that the petition would reach the Minister's very hands. We maid it very clear that the people of Moss Side were not going to be pushed around, and that we would eepect some satisfactory response very soon.

In the car park outside we were interviewed by the 'Newsview' team of Granada T.V. The producer thought our demands just and wished Moss Side luck.

A copy of the petition was also presented to Alderman Edwards, Chairman of the Town Planning Committee. There was only two of us, but this time we had two kids to strengthen the forces. It was not so much a presentation - more a kind of snatch. Alderman Edwards, being a very busy man, couldn't spare the time to hear what the petition was all about but assured us that he would read it later. Then the door was firmly shut.

A third copy was presented to Frank Taylor, the local M.P., who later wrote a letter to the Housing Action Group promising his full support. He later sent a copy of a comment on the petition he had obtained from Mr. Skeffington at the Ministry (Skeffington is at present preparing a Ministry report on local participation in planing - lets hope he takes note!). If we are lucky Taylor may even find time to attend one of the People's Association meetings some day.

REHOUSING

by a teenager

The council will soon be moving our family to one of those new housing estates. You know the sort of place - green grass, fresh air and jerry-built houses; but have you ever stopped to think of the effect that the move will have on YOU?

Some of us work near home, in the centre of town, or elsewhere; most places are quite easy to get to from Moss Side. If you're shoved to an estate miles out, you probably won't be able to afford to spend half your wages on bus fares. None of us earns a fortune! Some of us may have to give up our jobs because of living too far away. And as jobs are not easy to get at the moment, you might be out of work for weeks.

The social life is none too great either. Oh, they have a couple of picture houses here and there, but nobody wants to go every night, unless they're addicted. There are also a few youth clubs. Some of these are run by the Church, but inorder to go to these you have to attend church service every night before the club opens. I'd sooner watch telly. The others are mostly for those between I2 and I5. If you're I6 or over, you've had it!

So stop and think about it! Is all the green grass etc. so good after all?

maxine hooker

carter street

by SUSIE DINGWALL & CHRISTINE SUMNER.

Last Tuesday we went to the Town Hall, to see what we could find out about the Carter St. demolition programme.
Posing as residents of Carter St., we were shunted from one department to another, ending up in the Slum Clearance Dept. Room 321. After a short conversation, the following came out:

Q. When is the Public Enquiry?
A. Unless objections are raised there won't be one. The papers recently served on Carter St. are only a proposal which must be approved by the Minister of Housing. When the order is confirmed local premises or a caravan will be used to interview residents about re-housing.

Q. When will we be re-housed?
A. Re-housing will start in about 18 months from now.

Q. Where will we be re-housed?
A. It depends on what is available at the time. If, for instance, the only vacant accomodation is in Wilmslow then it will just have to be Wilmslow.

Q. What do we pay after the date of the Compulsory Purchase Order?
A. A tenant takes responsibility for rates and water charges and for all repairs. (We later made enquiries at the Rates Office and they say no rates are demanded after the date of the C.P.O.!)

At this point we stopped taking notes as the discussion became very heated. The argument began when the official asked why we were taking notes. He told us we had no right to ask questions on other peoples behalf.

Everyone is expected to go to the Town Hall and make their own enquiries; presumably this applies to old people, the disabled and mothers with small children! (It's a good job he didn't know that we don't live in Carter St. or he would have told us sod all.)

He did tell us that decisions on where people are to be re-housed are not taken until the people are being moved out. When we said we thought this was a bit haphazard he told us he was only interested in legal aspects and the numbers to be re-housed. We pointed out that Moss Side is not inhabited by legal aspects or numbers but by people.

When we asked him why Hulme could not be reserved for people from Carter St., he ducked the question and told us again that we must take what is available at the time. By this time we were very angry and told him what we thuoght about a Corporation which pulls down homes without seeming to care where the people are moved to.

Before leaving the Town Hall we obtained copies of two Council Reports which give details of proposals which the Corporation hope to carry out in the Carter St.Area. It see that they can give us details of exactly what they plan to do with the area. It seems a pity nobody is concerned about what

to do with the people.

We don't know what is going to happen to the 590 or so families at present living in the Carter St.-Greenheys Area. We do know that the lucky kids of the 146 families who move onto the site will have access to a 7½ acre playing field. Their not so lucky mothers will have access to ONE shop.

For further information on the Carter St-Greenheys Scheme see Council Reports 6049 and 5715 obtainable from the Town Hall, Room 110 Main Building.

H.A.G.

THIS THURSDAY JULY 18th

8.30 p.m.

CHRIST CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL
(corner Carter St and Denmark Rd.)

MEETING

If you live in or near

CARTER ST.

this meeting is a must.

DEMOLITION.

WOT IS HAG?

The Housing Action Group of the Moss Side Peoples Assoc. is a group of local people who are fighting for a fair deal on re-housing.
We do NOT want to stop the demolition programme, we are simply determined to see that EVERYBODY living in Moss Side gets the fullest con-ideration when their turn to be re-housed comes along.

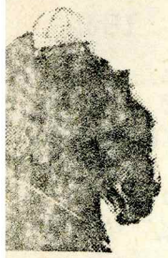
Activities of the H.A.G. a are varied,,ranging from knocking on doors to collect names on a petition to taking part in Television and Radio programmes, to gain publicity for our fight. The most recent of these was a recording last week for the B.B.C. which we believe is to be used this Sunday, July 13 at 11·40 a.m. Radio 4.
If YOU don't intend to be bullied by the Town Hall you should be in H.A.G.

The H.A.G. propose to get expert legal advice on all aspects of demolition and re-housing---- compensation, outstanding mortgages etc and to fight to see that no one is victimised.
We are also looking into the racketeers who sell condemned and other property on phoney mortgage agreements.

If you want to stay in the new Moss Side we will support you.
If you want to move out to the suburbs we will help make sure you get the district you want.
The bull-dozers are getting nearer and this is one thing you can't ignore.
If you give a damn about where you are going to be living in the future you ought to be a member of HAG
If you are interested contact,

H.A.G. 23, Sewerby St

RACING tips



by Ivan

Dear readers, this is my first attempt as an amateur tipster on horses and I hope my knowledge and experience over the many years can benefit those of you who are interested in the sport.

Take the 3 oclock race at Newbury on Saturday 12th July. My selection is the chestnut colt BALYBOY by Ballymoss - St. Citrus who was quite useful as a two year old. Bred by William Hill stud and costing £10,500. He should be good enough to take care of this company.

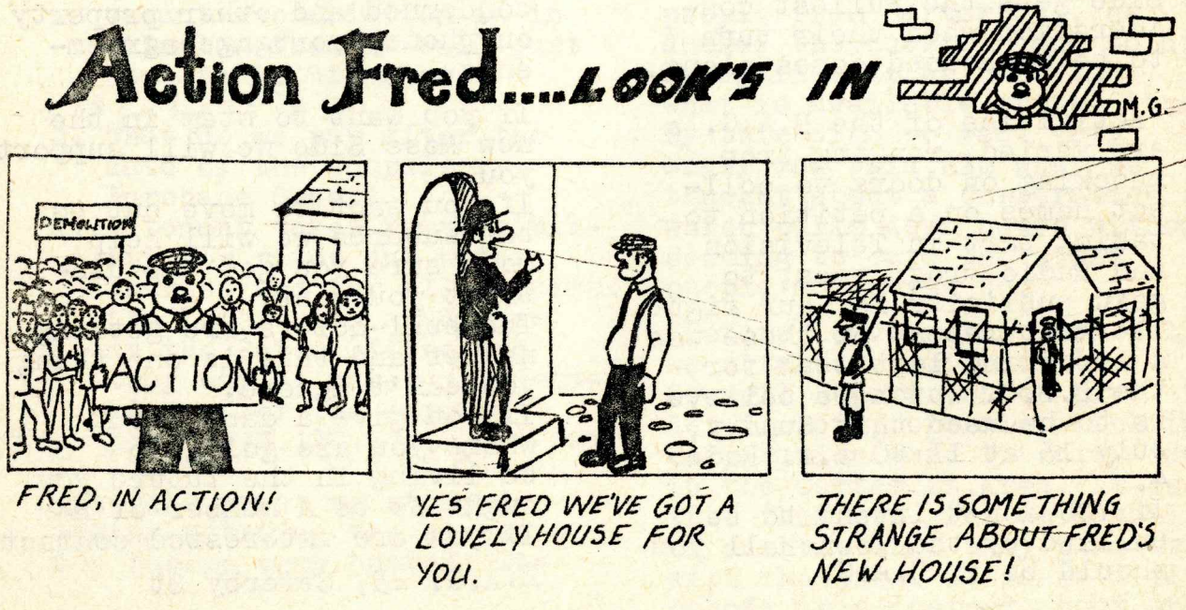
I now move across to York for the 4-35 on the same date to select MIRVIN - a chestnut colt by MIRALGO, costing £(£9,100 and has yet to open his account. I think this time he could do it.

In the 5 oclock at the same meeting a very costly animal is SOROCO who in my opinion has so far been a failure, having been bred by William Hill stud and he cost £17,000. This animal should do much better than before especially since he is the son of St. Paddy - Be Careful.

At Brighton on the same day at 3 oclock I side with Gordon Richard's BRIGHTWHISTLE and in the 5 oclock PINDARIQUE should make a bold bid to pass the post ahead of all the others.

For my final selection which is at Wolverhampton I like BLESS ME in the 8 oclock, trained by F. Davey. If this horse is absent, SWEET THANKS should be a good each way

Action Fred....LOOK'S IN



your stars

ARIES (21 Mar - 19 April)

Don't let the grass grow under your feet (there'll be plenty on the moors)

TAURUS (April 20 - 20 May)

Fortune smiles on you this week (a dark stranger from the town hall may be just around the corner)

GEMINI (21 May - 20 June)

An outstanding week! incredible things may happen. (Can it be the yearly visit of the strect cleaners?)

CANCER (21 June - 22 July)

Not a week for travel, do **not** loavc your house. (It may not be there when you get back)

LEO (23 July - 22 Aug)

Heavy demands will be made on you soon)

VIRGO (23 Aug - 22 Sept)

A lot of little happenings will fill your life with interest and excitement. (Send for the rat-man again)

LIBRA (23 Sept - 22 Oct)

Keep strictly to the straight and narrow. (They're demolishing the pubs)

SCORPIO (23 Oct - 21 Nov)

You may hear some shocking news soon. (The landlord is going to cut the rent)

SAGITTARIUS (22 Nov-21 Dec)

Don't push yourself too hard just now (all the shoving around will be done by the corporation)

CAPRICORN (22 Dec - 19 Jan)

Expect visitors (the demolition men may drop round)

AQUARIUS (20 Jan-18 Feb)

Concentrate on distant horizons. (Bury or Hattersley?)

PISCES (20 Feb-Mar 20)

Don't let those little problems worry you. (Kids will soon be declared illegal anyway)

LETTERS

menace!

Dear Sir,

Kerb crawling has oflate become a menace to the young girls and women of the district.

I think there should be some method of eliminating this nuisan--ce, or at lea st cut it down to a minimum. It seems one cannot go on an errand or see a friend to the bus stop without someone inviting one into their car or making improper suggestions.

My 15 year old daughter is persistently followed. Perhaps readers can suggest some way we can all help in dealing with this situation. For instance, how about noting the car number?

Yours sincerely
Mrs. E. Peel-Haig

PARENTS & SCHOOLS

by Berry Edwards

Berry Edwards called a public meeting a few weeks ago, at which it was suggested that a parent's association in Moss Side should be formed. He is also the father of 4 boys.

Neglect of Education

It has always been the policy of every political party in power to neglect education and other social services in working-class areas. This has meant that schools in areas like Moss Side are old, overcrowded, understaffed and use out-of-date books. The result of this is that the majority of the children from this area go on to unskilled and semi-skilled jobs.

Forming Association

In order to change this unsatisfactory situation we in the parent's association feel that it is vitally important to get parents in Moss Side to take an active interest in the education of their children. In order to do this a Moss Side Parents Association is being formed. This association will hold meetings to find out what the parents want and are concerned about, and to give them information about what is going on. It will try to see what can be done to improve the education of the children.

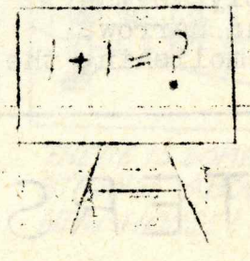
Advice Centre

It would establish an advice centre where parents could get information and advice about the education of their children.

Teachers offer Help

A number of teachers and heads in Moss Side schools have shown interest in this venture and have offered to help the Parents Association. One of the first goals will be to establish closer links with the teachers. Because of inadequate training in many colleges of education, many teachers do not understand the background and nature of their working-class pupils. This may have damaging consequences for the children, whose potential may not be fully developed. It is therefore vitally important that teachers be made aware of these factors rather than having them continue to insist on the pupils'

(continued next page)



(education, continued)

adopting the teacher's middle class values and neglecting them when they fail to do so. We are confident that when the teachers are made aware of these facts most of them will cooperate.

Unity

Another aspect of this problem is the need to educate the teachers and through them all the pupils about the different back-grounds and cultures of the immigrant groups living in Moss Side. We feel that this is especially important because it is in the schools that the children from the different racial and ethnic groups can learn to respect their own culture as well as their fellow pupils'. If we can establish this healthy healthy atmosphere in the schools we will be well on our way to creating unity in Moss Side among the different groups who live here, and who have common goals and problems.

Push for better Education!

The parents association will strengthen the Moss Side parents' ability to influence the educational authorities to ensure the improvement of education in Moss Side. Just as organised workers have more power than each worker has individually, so organised parents will have more power than they would if they are unorganised. Therefore if the Moss Side parents who care about the education of their children organised themselves to push for better education, the political decision-makers will have to take note.

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SCHOOL STOPS PLAY.

An Adventure Playgroundis starting on July 24th. on the crofts between Woodland & Monton St. The University Settlement and local mothers are organising it. It will run throughout the school holidays from 9.30a.m.-12. & 1.-4.30p.m.

The scheme will be similar to last year's, except that this year the head teacher of Whitworth School will not allow the school playground to be used. He said he was afraid of the damage the kids might do.

Anyone interested in helping should call at 22, Monton St. Raffle tickets are being sold to raise money for paints etc - so please buy lots!

SHOPKEEPERS OGLE.

Shortly after 9a.m. last Saturday, a girl with blond hair came walking down Moss Lane wearing only a shirt and showing her knickers. She was about 20.

All the shopkeepers came out to look, including myself, and the incident almost started a traffic jam. Someone remarked:"I wonder what she's advertising"!

Any further information about this young women would be appreciated.

- Jack Kirwin.

Note: this does not necessarily represent the editorial view!

BUS DRIVERS REFUSE GOOD MONEY

The one man buses on the 53 route seem to have changed the rules about money. Some drivers have refused to allow people to get on the bus because they've only got a note. Is this a change of policy by the Corporation on what is money and what isn't? Next time the rate bill arrives why not take your payment down to the Town Hall in tanners so that they'll have some change for their buses!

A HIVE OF ACTIVITY.

Every weekday evening sees lots of fun, games and activity at the Moss Side Junior & Youth Club in Darcy St. From 6p.m.-8.30 the Group of 8-12 yr. olds meets, while the Youth Club starts at 7.30 with activities that include table tennis, billiards, badminton, boxing and dressmaking, as well as football and cricket.The Youth Club's next outing is to Blackpool on 27th.July, and this year's camp was in Scarborough in Whit Week.

During the daytime the 'Save the Children Fund'also organises a Play Group. At weekends the rooms are used by the West Indian Sports & Social Club.

The Club closes down from 1st.Aug. to 8th.Sept., and, all being well, the rooms will be re-decorated during this time. Meanwhile there are places for teen-age girls. Here's your chance girls! See Mr.Elliott, the Warden.

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